

Uncanny Camus

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Abstract:

Camus's principal works may now seem so familiar, so intensively discussed, that there can be nothing new to say about them. Yet they retain their power to intrigue and to disturb. This paper suggests that, like the Freudian uncanny, what is unnerving about Camus's writing is its very familiarity, its ability to confront us with what is at the same time fully known and enigmatic. The issue is examined by looking at different versions of the everyday in Camus's writing, and then in a more detailed reading of the short story 'The Adulterous Woman'.